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SYSTEM COUNCIL U-4 IBEW

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October 9, 2001

The Honorable Spencer Abraham
Secretary of Energy
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20585

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Dear Mr. Secretary,

It is vital that this country have available an abundant, affordable and reliable supply of energy in order to maintain economic growth and provide the energy security that is essential to our way of life. The tragic events of September 11th make this even more imperative.

On behalf of the more than three thousand members of System Council U-4 IBEW, I want to articulate our position on the energy situation in this country.

It is essential that our country have a mix of energy sources. In these troubled times and into the future, this becomes even more important. Our union supports the generation of electricity by coal, gas, nuclear, hydro, wind and solar. The construction and operation of all these facilities provide numerous jobs for our members. The electric power they produce is the foundation of every aspect of America's economy and benefits consumers, businesses and workers alike.

With respect to nuclear power, our union knows that it provides nearly 20 percent of this nation's electricity. Nuclear power is emission-free and does not contribute any greenhouse gases to the atmosphere. We also know it is safe. We believe that there is no substitute for the electricity produced in our nuclear plants.

In order for our nation's nuclear plants to continue operating and to provide the opportunity for construction of additional plants, the problem of spent fuel disposal must be solved. All of the scientific studies performed by the Department of Energy on Yucca Mountain show that it is suitable for use as a permanent repository.

I urge you to accelerate the effort to determine the suitability of Yucca Mountain so that a final recommendation can be made to the President this year.

Sincerely,

Brian K. Thompson
Business Manager
System Council U-4, IBEW

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